

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL**

**April 8, 2019**

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Ed Kosiur at 7:00 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. Kosiur asked for Pastor George Carstensen of Zion Lutheran Church to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Council Woman Leesa Perazzo to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to be present:

Present – Council Members: John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield , Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, Leesa Perazzo, Vincent Riggi, John Mootooveren and Ed Kosiur.

Absent – None.

Also Present – Deputy City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo, Mayor Gary R. McCarthy and Assistant Corporation Counsel Meaghan Fitzpatrick.

At this point, Mr. Kosiur asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item sixteen out of order. There were no objections.

**Resolution No. 2019-071 A Resolution Recognizing Crime Victims Month.**

The resolution was moved by Mr. Riggi and seconded by Ms. Perazzo. The resolution passed unanimously.

Tina Mazzucco accepted the resolution and thanked the Mayor and City Council for their acknowledgment to the Victims.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 Council Meeting as submitted by the Deputy City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion and Mr. Riggi seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

From the Mayor, a list of appointments, dated April 8, 2019.

**General:**

None

**Petitions:**

From the residents of DeCamp Avenue, a petition of 24 signatures for the Sidewalk Replacement Program.

From Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, a petition of 139 signatures requesting City Council reject the application for a wine and liquor store at 844 Albany Street and alter zoning in the future to prohibit such stores in redeveloping areas.

From Bethel AME Church, a petition of 19 signatures opposing a wine and liquor store at 844 Albany Street and asks for zoning regulations that would prevent such establishments in positive development neighborhoods.

From the Community Builders, several petitions totaling 54 signatures opposing a wine and liquor store at 844 Albany Street.

From Electric City Barn, a petition of 7 signatures opposing a wine and liquor store at 844 Albany Street.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

## PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Mr. Kosiur invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward:

**Joy Hall** – Stated that there are many potholes along Hulett Street and Albany Street and by Boulevard Bowl. There are many people speeding down Millard Street. Both of these issues are a hazard to the welfare and safety of our residents.

**Charles Thorne** – Spoke on agenda item #4 stating that in January, 2019, New York State Assembly Member Phil Steck introduced legislation that would allow the City of Schenectady to increase the fee up to the fee charged by New York State for certified birth and death certificates. On January 9th, the bill passed out of the Health Committee with a vote of 24-1 and has been referred to Ways and Means Committee. The vital records fee for cities and towns was last raised from \$5 to \$10 in 1991. In 2003, New York State raised the fee they charge for vital records documents to \$30, but froze the fee charged by municipalities at \$10. Prior to 2003, the fee charged by local governments was the same as the \$10 charge collected by the state. Three years ago New York State established the Electronic Death Record System and began charging the funeral directors \$10 a death Certificate to pay for the system. Cities and towns do not receive anything from it. With the computer and network requirements there is a cost to run that system for the cities and towns. This is a type of unfunded mandate. He then asked the City Council to pass the legislation that endorses the Legislature's bill that will allow the City of Schenectady to raise the fee.

**David Giacalone** – Spoke about the OTB Demonstration Project and asked if there was a net effect of people going to the OTB then going into the Casino.

**Mary McClaine** – A Councilman said that he does not hold a four year college degree. Neither do six other Schenectady City Officials. If an employee holds a law degree and his boss is a graduate of a two year community college education, there are bound to be clashes and the community comes up short. When a double dipper walks away from a \$130,000 salary, there must be "Something rotten in Denmark". On another note – There were two items on tonight's agenda that had relevance to issues I raised at this podium in the past. One dealt with taxi rates and the other was fee increases for Vital Records. In the case of taxi rates, the law says it is

unlawful to run a cab without a taximeter. Meters give an accurate reading of a passenger fare. So do time clocks. Several years ago, a friend begged me to come here and ask Council to install time clocks in City Hall for City Employee to clock out. I did it for her. She obviously witnessed something that had disturbed her very much. Other work places have them. If it is compulsory for taxicabs to have meters, why not the public sector? What is the reason for the lack of time clocks for City Employees? As for increased fees, the argument was made that those who use the service pay for it. That argument can also be made for residency. Last year the press reported that 90% of school personnel do not live in the City. However, they use city facilities while they are at work. My street is covered with cars all day long. With all the snow and cars on the street I had a hard time getting out of my driveway this winter. This year the school is going to add 30 new teachers to its staff. I think this Council needs to make its pitch to school personnel to hire teachers who are willing to live in Schenectady. They will make a tax contribution to the City's coffers and pay for the service that they use. A win-win situation.

Seeing no other speakers to come forward, Mr. Kosiur declared the Privilege of the Floor, regarding the Legislative Agenda, to be closed.

**INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was moved by Mr. Mootoveren and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas.

**Consent Agenda**

- Ordinance No. 2019 – 04.....Adopted Unanimously
- Ordinance No. 2019 – 05.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2010 – 072 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 073 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 074 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 075 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 076 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 077 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 078 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 079 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 080 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 081 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 082 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 083 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 084 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 085 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 086 .....Adopted Unanimously

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - CITY BUSINESS:**

Mr. Kosiur invited all who wished to address the City Council on any matter of City Business to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

**Leonard De Masi** – Stated that sidewalks cost a lot of money and questions the quality of the sidewalks being put in. He said that the sidewalks that were recently done in front of the YMCA is already chipping and suggests that contracts may use a cheaper mix. Sidewalks should last several years. He asks that the City should have oversight when the sidewalks are done.

**Patricia Smith** – From the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association stated that she was asked to speak on behalf of the staff, school bus monitors and parents of Hamilton School regarding a safety issue. During the day when the school buses are parked outside of the school the streets become too narrow for two way traffic flow. She asks that a sign be placed to change the direction of the traffic for an hour in the morning and afternoon during the school year and also have a patrol officer there to monitor traffic for at least a week.

**P. D. Voorhis** – Quoted an article written on January 14, 2019 in the *Wall Street Journal* that states free people working in a free economy have done more to save the planet than any other government program in the world in terms of reduction of carbon dioxide emissions... blame the teachers, college professors, celebrity entertainers and activist media.

**David Giacalone** – Stated that the FEMA flood mitigation study that was done was good, but the options were extreme. He asked if the options given because it was the least intrusive and what would be the costs? He suggests the experts meet with the residents and discuss it further.

**Rev. Phil Grigsby** – Director of Schenectady Community Ministries (SCM) spoke on behalf of the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association and other community members and businesses regarding the proposed liquor store at 844 Albany Street and asks that the City look into a change in zoning for that area.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. Kosiur declared the Privilege of the Floor, regarding general City Business, to be closed.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas** – Announced that Woodlawn Park is having a cleanup day on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Woodlawn Neighborhood Garage Sale will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and the drops off dates are on May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms. Porterfield** – Announced that the Northside Neighborhood is will also have a cleanup day on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. everyone can meet at Marty's Hardware. Also, the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association will hold their clean up day on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2019, they will also have the first installation of the refurbished garbage cans. She encouraged everyone, all community leaders, stores and businesses to come out and join all of the neighborhood clean ups spend some time at each and meet their neighbors too.

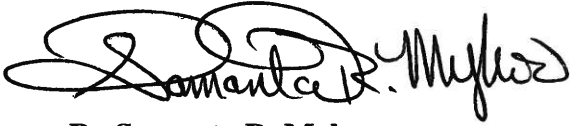
**Mayor McCarthy** – Stated that Senator Schumer was in Schenectady today to advocate for additional funding for the Schenectady's Social Enterprise and Training (SEAT) program which would be affected with the cuts proposed by the President for 2020. He then announced that the Schenectady Habitat for Humanity will be sponsoring a community symposium to address the need for affordable housing on Thursday, April 25, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the First Reformed Church.

**Mr. Kosiur** – Announced that the Schenectady Job Training Agency (SJTA) has started accepting their summer youth job applications for ages 14-21 that reside in Schenectady County and the deadline to apply is Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Then reminded everyone that on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> is Coffee with the Council at the Greenmarket from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and the Sidewalk Petition deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjourned:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Mootoveren and seconded by Ms, Porterfield. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

**A true record**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

**By Samanta R. Mykoo**

**Deputy Schenectady City Clerk**